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LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 9 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the provocative and belligerent military operations launched repeatedly by the Islamic Republic of Iran against Iraq's borders.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to my letter dated 7 August 1996 concerning the repeated attacks and violations perpetrated by Iran against the border between Iraq and Iran, I wish to inform you that Iranian troops have engaged in a number of belligerent military operations. The details are as follows:

1. 12 August 1996

At 0130 hours, a unit belonging to the first regiment of the second border brigade under the Iraqi military command intercepted armed individuals aboard a small boat in the area of Al-Zabadiyah at coordinates 420534; the individuals fled in the direction of Iran.

2. 15 August 1996

At 0100 hours, an Iraqi unit intercepted armed individuals aboard two boats at the location referred to in the preceding paragraph; the individuals subsequently fled in the direction of Iran.

3. 26 August 1996

A grey Iranian fibreglass boat carrying four individuals wearing military dress and armed with Kalashnikov rifles approached an Iraqi fishing boat and subsequently towed it towards Iran, taking the fishermen on board, Shaker Jawad, Dahir Taleb and Jasim Rumi, along with it. Although Mr. Jawad and Mr. Taleb were later released, the fate of Mr. Rumi is still unknown.

The acts of provocation and aggression reported above constitute a grave violation of the cease-fire agreement in force between the two countries as well as a blatant attack on Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and flout the principles which govern friendly and good-neighbourly relations between States; above all, they offer clear proof that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is persisting in its determination to pursue a policy that runs counter to the aforementioned principles and does not seek to ensure stability and security in the region.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq once again protests these acts of provocation and holds Iran fully responsible for any consequences they may have. In particular, Iraq reserves the right to seek compensation for the damage these acts may cause it and the right, enshrined in international standards and the law, to take any steps it deems necessary to preserve its sovereignty, defend the integrity of its territory and its territorial waters, and ensure the security of its people.

While appealing, through you, to Iran once again to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, I express the hope that the United Nations will shoulder its responsibilities under the Charter and ensure that these

threats and acts of aggression to which our country is constantly being exposed are brought to an end.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq